



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857Re: Sonata
Docket No. 00E-1234

The Honorable James. E. Rogan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box Pat. Ext.
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Director Rogan:

This is in regard to the patent term extension application for U.S. Patent No. 4,626,538 filed by American Home Products under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The patent claims the human drug product Sonata (zaleplon), new drug application NDA 20-859.

In the January 25, 2002, issue of the Federal Register (67 Fed. Reg. 3723), the Food and Drug Administration published its determination of this product's regulatory review period, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A). The notice provided that on or before July 24, 2002, 180 days after the publication of the determination, any interested person could file a petition with FDA under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(B)(i) for a determination of whether the patent term extension applicant acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period.

The 180-day period for filing a due diligence petition pursuant to this notice has expired and FDA has received no such petition. Therefore, FDA considers the regulatory review period determination to be final.

Please let me know if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Arnold S. Milowsky
American Home Products Corporation
Egon Berg
One Campus Drive
Parsippany, NJ 07054